FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Lord, make us turn to you,
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

PREPARE
the Way
of
the Lord

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC PARISH

HIGHETT / CHELTENHAM

Parish Office:
9 Centre Dandenong Road,
Cheltenham, VIC. 3192

Our Lady of the Assumption Church
9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham

St Agnes' Church
25 Spring Road, Highett

Telephone: (03) 9583 6161
Email: col@cam.org.au
Website: www.christourlight.org.au

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B
28th / 29th NOVEMBER, 2026



The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stage for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope. The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest. An Advent way of life exhorts us to 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ'. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.

Dianne Bergant CSA

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9532 1794
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Monday - Friday 9am – 2.30pm
Parish Secretary: Vino Krishnan-Blair
Parish Accountant: Maureen Ryan 0407 544 779
Counsellor: AnneMaree Eddy 0403 284 536

OUR SCHOOLS:

Our Lady of the Assumption PS 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
Email: principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Thomas Hartney
Email: principal@sahighett.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES – CHELTENHAM & HIGHETT
SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday	[St Agnes Church]	6:00 pm
Sunday	[OLA]	9:00 am, 11:00 am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Tuesday	[St Agnes Church]	9.00 am
Tuesday	[OLA Church]	6.00 pm
Wednesday	[OLA Church]	9.15 am
Thursday	[OLA Church]	9.15 am
Friday	[St Agnes Church]	9.00 am
Saturday	[OLA Church]	9.00 am

COMMUNION SERVICE (except Public Holidays)
Monday [OLA Church] 9.15 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Wednesday [OLA Church] 9:45 am
Saturday [OLA Church] 9.30 am

BAPTISMS: Contact Parish Office: 9583 6161.

WEDDINGS: By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays).

The clergy, employees and volunteers of our parish are committed to upholding a duty of care to all children, young people and vulnerable adults, taking all reasonable steps to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse and harm and commit to safeguard their health and well-being.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B
28th / 29th November, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Karen Mitri, Ian Wilson, Nanette Ainsworth, Ray Purcell, Sumita Tandon, Ivan Rode, Judith McGinley,

and all who have died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Patrick Pereira, June D'Souza, Peter Bracchi, Grazia Marino, Loclan Miceli, Elsie Seymour, Antonia Zingale, Antonia Fucile, Marco Paoli, Sara Paredes, Dominic D'Souza, Gurunath Korgaonkar, Aleyamma Jacob, Mary McElwee, Beryl Holloway, Kath Devine, Jude Cardona, Enrico Abad,

and all who we remember at this time.

Readings for this liturgical year from Advent 2026 to Christ the King 2027 are taken from Year B in the Lectionary cycle. Should you wish to view the Scripture Readings for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) please visit: universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass

VOLUNTEERS: Please make sure that your WWCC/POLICE CHECK documents are current, that is, have not expired, and copies made available to the Parish Office.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: Thank you to all parishioners who continue to generously support our parish i.e., through their contributions to both our Thanksgiving and Presbytery collections. With the assistance of the Archdiocese, we are currently working on refining the facility for parishioners to contribute to Christ Our Light Parish via an online portal.



KNITTING GROUP Our wonderful knitting group will be holding their **Christmas Stall at OLA church after the 9am and 11am Masses next Sunday, the 6th of December**. Please support our wonderful knitters, as all proceeds go to St Vincent De Paul.



Next Saturday evening, 5th December, following the 6pm Mass at St Agnes' you're invited to stay and join fellow parishioners in St Agnes church foyer, for an 'End of Year'/ 'Christmas' cuppa. You're most welcome to bring something to share. Please consider dropping any food into the church kitchen area prior to Mass.

Next Sunday 6th December, you're invited to stay and join fellow parishioners for a 'Christmas' themed cuppa **after 9am & 11am Masses**, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.

SYNOD CORNER: Synodality and mission beyond the Church. A synodal Church listens not only inwardly but outwardly, engaging respectfully with society and culture.

MELBOURNE SYNOD – WHAT WAS AGREED, WHAT'S NEXT? - Following the completion of the Synod (4 - 6 December 2026), Adrian Foley a parishioner of Christ Our Light will outline what was agreed at the Synod, and what is to happen next. You are warmly invited to come and hear about this important event in the Church of Melbourne.
Where: Exodus Hall, Christ Our Light Parish, 9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham.
When: Sunday 13th December, 10.05-10.30am

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH - STAMP DONATION SCHEME - *Your stamps can transform lives!* Send new or used stamps to Mary Mackillop Today,
Reply Paid 88663, North Sydney, NSW, 2059
For more information visit:
marymackilloptoday.org.au/stamps/

Jesuit & Ignatian Spirituality Australia

DAILY ADVENT CONTEMPLATIONS – 'ALL CREATION WAITS' is a daily journey of contemplation, exploring the wonder of our universe, the sacredness of the natural world, and our place within the unfolding story of creation. Each day throughout Advent, you will receive a short audiovisual contemplation by email, with an invitation to reflect and respond. Registration is free. For more information:

book.venue.life/pch/register/all-creation-waits-daily-advent-contemplations-2026

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MONTH OF NOVEMBER
Remembering Our Dearly Departed

The Cross of Remembrance

You are invited to inscribe the names of your dear loved ones who have died, on the November cross placed near the altar in each of our churches. These crosses will be in place from 1st – 30th November. November Offering envelopes are available in the foyers of our churches and at the base of each Remembrance Cross, for those who would like Masses offered for deceased loved ones.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL Christmas "Giving Tree" The St Vincent de Paul Conferences for Christ Our Light Parish have their Christmas trees in the foyers of both OLA and St Agnes churches. Please take an envelope and return a gift card by Sunday, 29th November (First Sunday of Advent). There is also a basket if you wish to donate any Christmas 'goodies' – food or decorations for the hampers.

THE NEW 'CHRIST OUR LIGHT PARISH' WEBSITE Please visit:
christourlight.org.au